

March 11, 2014

Inside This Issue

Upstate AHEC Purchases
New Center Building

Don't Forget: Statewide
Series of Interdisciplinary
HIV Case-Based Discussions
This Spring – Bring Your
Cases

Dr. William H. Hester
Appointed USC- Florence
Assistant Dean for Medical
Student Education

Aquatic Therapeutic
Exercise Training Coming
April 2014

Pee Dee AHEC Welcomes
Nursing Continuing
Education Coordinator
Cheryl Neuner

Self Regional Healthcare
Announces Centering
Pregnancy Program

Dr. Katherine Stephens
Appointed as Site Visitor for
ACGME

Pee Dee AHEC Health
Careers Program Now
Accepting Applications for
Summer Internships

SC AHEC HPS Coordinators
Engage MUSC Physician
Assistant Class of 2015

ER/LA Opioid REMS:
Achieving Safe Use While
Improving Patient Care

Highlighted Events

Monday, March 17
*Organ, Eye and Tissue:
Referral, Management and
Donation Process*

Friday, March 21
*Alzheimer's Disease and Other
Dementias Series: Part 1 of 6*

Wednesday, March 26
*SCHOOLS TITAN: Medical
Management of the HIV Patient*

Friday, March 28
*2014 Update for Pharmacy
Technicians*

Wednesday, April 9
Children, Stress and Trauma

Thursday, April 10
*Motivational Interviewing and
Solutions Oriented Therapy*

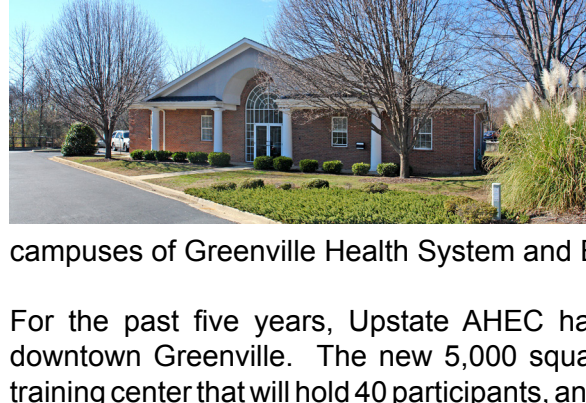
[For more information about
events and a full listing of
upcoming programs, please
visit our website.](#)

Featured Enduring CE

Pediatric Morning Report
Available at SCHOOLS
[https://www.scahec.net/
schoolsregistration/Videos.
aspx](https://www.scahec.net/schoolsregistration/Videos.aspx)

Visit South Carolina
AHEC Regional Centers

Upstate AHEC Purchases New Center Building



Upstate AHEC has purchased a building to house the center headquarters in Greenville, SC. Following the completion of renovations, Upstate AHEC plans to move into the new facility in April. Located in the Eastside, or Patewood, area of Greenville, the new facility is adjacent to the campuses of Greenville Health System and Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital.

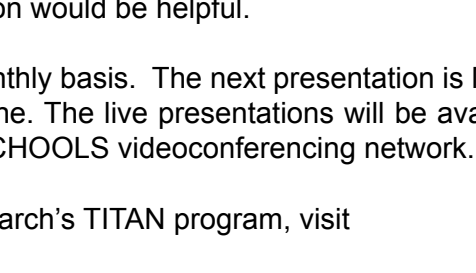
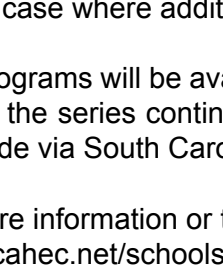
For the past five years, Upstate AHEC has leased property on Main Street in downtown Greenville. The new 5,000 square-foot building features 12 offices, a training center that will hold 40 participants, an audio recording room and a conference room. Upstate AHEC serves 11 counties and will continue to offer classes outside the Greenville area. However, with the new building's training center, Upstate AHEC will be able to conduct continuing education trainings at its own facility rather than be dependent on other venues throughout the area.

Fay Brown, center director, said, "Our new building provides Upstate AHEC more flexibility in planning and conducting trainings on site and will enable us to have more face-to-face contact with Upstate healthcare professionals who are our customers. In addition, our high school and college student programs will have appropriate space for meetings and trainings. The new headquarters will provide ample parking for customers and reduced street noise, two persistent concerns with the current location in Downtown Greenville. The new center location is in a major medical community, putting Upstate AHEC in closer proximity to our healthcare partners. We are pleased to have found an affordable building that so closely fits our staff needs and those of our constituents."

Upstate AHEC plans an open house for the new building in late Spring.

[← Back to top](#)

Don't Forget: Statewide Series of Interdisciplinary HIV Case-Based Discussions This Spring – Bring Your Cases



The South Carolina AHEC is partnering with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Palmetto Health to present the TITAN Case Conference, an ongoing series of interdisciplinary case-based discussions relating to HIV.

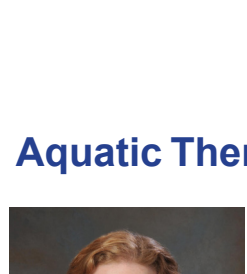
The TITAN series offers practitioners a chance to discuss HIV cases with an interdisciplinary team from USC as well as other healthcare professionals in attendance from throughout the state. These case conferences are especially beneficial to practitioners who see a small number of HIV cases or have a particularly unique case where additional consultation would be helpful.

Five programs will be available on a monthly basis. The next presentation is March 26 and the series continues through June. The live presentations will be available statewide via South Carolina AHEC's SCHOOLS videoconferencing network.

For more information or to register for March's TITAN program, visit www.scahec.net/schools.

[← Back to top](#)

Dr. William H. Hester Appointed USC- Florence Assistant Dean for Medical Student Education



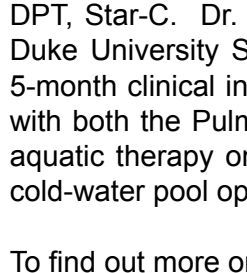
The University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine announced in February that Dr. William H. Hester has been appointed as assistant dean for medical student education for the school's new medical campus in Florence, SC. As assistant dean, Dr. Hester will play an important role in the development of the School of Medicine's Florence campus, where medical students will spend part of their clerkship rotations beginning this summer.

Dr. Hester's appointment follows many years of service within the South Carolina AHEC healthcare community, including serving as the founding program director for the Family Medicine Residency Training Program at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence since 1979. Dr. Hester has also been chairman of the AHEC Council and chairman of the Family Medicine Residency Training Program Director Council.

To read the full announcement and find out more about Dr. Hester's extensive service, visit the USC School of Medicine [website](#).

[← Back to top](#)

Aquatic Therapeutic Exercise Training Coming April 2014



Aquatic therapy, or pool therapy, aims to rehabilitate patients after injury or those with chronic illness such as arthritis. Aquatic therapy has long been utilized, beginning with the ancient Greeks and Romans and evolving to the whirlpools of the early 1900's. However, many physical therapy programs do not provide education in aquatic therapy techniques, creating the need for additional training for therapists who work in water therapies.

On April 26, Pee Dee AHEC will be offering a Comprehensive Aquatic Therapy Techniques course for practitioners interested in learning more about aquatic therapy. Additionally, the course will cover reimbursement from Medicaid and Medicare, including Medicare G code assignment.

Aquatic therapy reduces the amount of weight placed on the joints normally experienced by exercise outside the water. Advantages include earlier onset of rehabilitation, cardiovascular conditioning, increased flexibility, increased strength, and muscle endurance. These benefits contribute to short-term and long-term benefits for patients and athletes.

Comprehensive Aquatic Therapy Techniques will be taught by Elizabeth Rose, PT, DPT, Star-C. Dr. Rose obtained her Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy from Duke University School of Medicine. Her aquatic therapy experience began in a 5-month clinical internship at the Duke Center for Living during which she worked with both the Pulmonary Rehab and Arthritis Rehab Clinics. She later performed aquatic therapy on pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients utilizing both warm and cold-water pool opportunities.

To find out more or register for the course, visit Pee Dee AHEC's website at www.peedeeahec.net/ce/cecoursecatalog.aspx.

[← Back to top](#)

Connect with us:



Pee Dee AHEC Welcomes Nursing Continuing Education Coordinator Cheryl Neuner



On February 24, Pee Dee AHEC welcomed back Cheryl Neuner, BSN, RNC, as their nursing continuing education coordinator. Cheryl comes to Pee Dee AHEC from Palmetto Health where she held the position of manager of regional forensic nurse examiners in Columbia, SC. She is a summa cum laude graduate from the Medical University of South Carolina where she earned her baccalaureate degree in nursing and also holds a neonatal intensive care certification. Prior to moving to the midlands, Cheryl worked at Pee Dee AHEC, Providence Hospital, Carolina's Hospital System, and Marlboro Park Hospital.

When not spending time with her husband, mother, and their two dogs and cat, you will find Cheryl enjoying her many hobbies, which include catering, antiques, and music. Cheryl is a native of French Camp, California, but will quickly tell you that she is a true "Carolina Girl".

Cheryl said, "I am thrilled to be back to work with my AHEC family and very excited to assist in the planning of quality nursing education programs for which the South Carolina AHEC system is recognized for."

Please contact Cheryl at 843-777-5347 or cneuner@mcleodhealth.org.

[← Back to top](#)

Self Regional Healthcare Announces Centering Pregnancy Program

The Montgomery Center for Family Medicine in Greenwood, SC was recently awarded grant funding to launch Centering Pregnancy® prenatal care with support from the South Carolina Department of Health & Human Services and March of Dimes of South Carolina. The Montgomery Center is the outpatient clinic for the Self Regional Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program.

Centering® is group-based prenatal care that brings together women who are in the same stage of pregnancy. The group visits replace traditional individual visits. At group sessions women take their own blood pressure, weigh themselves, set personal goals and have an individual check-up with their clinician. Then the group, along with the clinician, meet together in a facilitated discussion concerning important health topics. In this group setting, there is more time for women to explore the issues that impact their health and that of their babies and families. Women experience greater learning; feel better prepared for labor, birth, and infant care; gain friendship and support in the group; and overall have greater satisfaction.

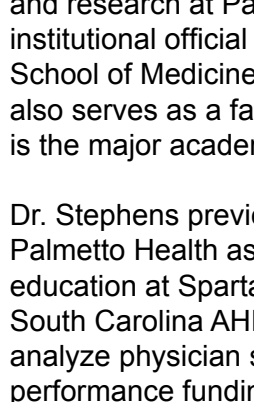
According to the Centering® Healthcare Institute, "Centering® is an evidence-based innovation that has been nationally recognized by leading healthcare experts because of the improved outcomes for important maternal child health factors, including preterm birth rates, low birth weight rates, small for gestational age rates, breastfeeding rates, and immunization rates".

Through improved outcomes, Centering® delivers great value to the healthcare system. The Centering® Healthcare Institute reported that the associated reduction in preterm births in 2012 saved over \$40 million.

More information can be found at: www.centeringhealthcare.org

[← Back to top](#)

Dr. Katherine Stephens Appointed as Site Visitor for ACGME



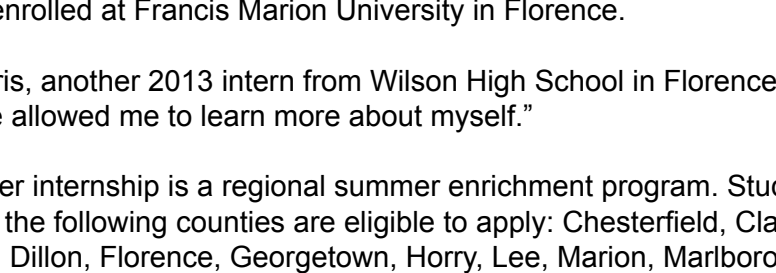
Dr. Katherine Stephens, a member of the South Carolina AHEC Council, recently began serving as a volunteer site visitor for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME) Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) program. She was selected as one of the inaugural group of six designated institutional officials to assist the ACGME in conducting reviews of the clinical learning environment at teaching hospitals across the country.

Since 1998, Dr. Stephens has served as vice president for medical education and research at Palmetto Health in Columbia, SC, where she is the designated institutional official responsible for the Palmetto Health/University of South Carolina School of Medicine medical residency programs and related departments. She also serves as a faculty member of the USC School of Medicine-Columbia, which is the major academic affiliate of Palmetto Health.

Dr. Stephens previously served as an AHEC center director both in her role at Palmetto Health as well as during her 10 years as administrator for medical education at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. Her service to the South Carolina AHEC has included participation in statewide committees to analyze physician supply and demand, to develop graduate medical education performance funding measures, and to restructure the South Carolina AHEC system.

[← Back to top](#)

Pee Dee AHEC Health Careers Program Now Accepting Applications for Summer Internships



Pee Dee AHEC is now accepting applications from high school and college students throughout the region for Health Careers Program Summer Internships. These four to six week experiences allow selected underserved students to be placed in healthcare facilities within the Pee Dee region's 12 counties. As an added bonus, this opportunity includes a stipend for successful program completers.

While in their internship placements, students observe, volunteer, and work alongside health professionals. Last year's interns were placed in facilities catering to pediatrics, home health nursing, and hospitals, to name a few. Natalie Bejarano-Dugarte, a 2013 intern from Horry County, completed her internship experience at McLeod Seacoast in Little River, SC in the Medical Surgical Unit under the supervision of Paula Thompson, RN, director of nursing.

"My favorite part of this experience has been the learning process I have undergone and communicating with the patients on a personal level," said Natalie.

Furthermore, Natalie said the program helped her decide whether to become a nurse or a doctor—she is leaning towards pursuing a medical degree. Currently, Natalie is enrolled at Francis Marion University in Florence.

Alexis Harris, another 2013 intern from Wilson High School in Florence, said, "The experience allowed me to learn more about myself."

The summer internship is a regional summer enrichment program. Students who live in the following counties are eligible to apply: Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg.

The application can be obtained online at <https://www.peedeeahec.net/hcp/hcpforms.aspx> and requires a non-refundable \$25 application fee. The application deadline is April 4. Students seriously interested in all types of health careers are encouraged to apply. For more information contact Larissa Clavon, program coordinator, at lclavon@mcleodhealth.org.

[← Back to top](#)

SC AHEC HPS Coordinators Engage MUSC Physician Assistant Class of 2015



The MUSC Physician Assistant Class of 2015 will begin their rotations in August 2014 with the Rural Interprofessional Student Experience (RISE). This program enables students to live in rural areas of South Carolina and observe various hospitals throughout the state. For the remainder of the 2014, these students will also attend various clinical rotation placements in all four regions of the state.

On Thursday, February 6, the South Carolina AHEC Health Professions Student (HPS) Council members from each regional AHEC met in Charleston at the MUSC College of Health Professions. Dr. Lewis McKelvey from the Presbyterian College of Pharmacy joined the meeting to discuss his collaboration and willingness to collaborate with sites to provide interprofessional learning opportunities for his students.

Following the meeting, the HPS Coordinators met with the Physician Assistant Class of 2015. Each AHEC region presented their counties, housing opportunities and rotation placements to the class. Breakout sessions followed for students to meet individually with the coordinators and to answer any additional questions.

"Pee Dee AHEC and the other three regional AHEC centers are proud to support these future healthcare professionals and to provide them with continued educational opportunities," said Kam Richardson, HPS coordinator from Pee Dee AHEC.

For additional information, contact Kam Richardson at krichards@mcleodhealth.org.

[← Back to top](#)

ER/LA Opioid REMS: Achieving Safe Use While Improving Patient Care



Did you miss the *ER/LA Opioid Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy: Achieving Safe Use While Improving Patient Care* course earlier this year? There is still time to register for the session in Greenville at the GHS Robert Coleman Staff Auditorium on March 11 and in Florence at the McLeod Regional Medical Center on April 15.

The purpose of the conference will be to provide participants with information on how to improve pain management and prevent adverse outcomes in patients using ER/LA Opioid Analgesics. ASAM's grant provides three *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* for those who

prescribe or dispense medication and three best practice credit hours for counselors, therapists and nonsocial workers.

Lowcountry AHEC and Mid-Carolina AHEC held the program earlier this year with great success. Lowcountry had 59 professionals in attendance, ranging from nurse practitioners and registered nurses to counselors and physicians. Similarly, Mid-Carolina AHEC's program was well received, with three videoconferencing sites extending the broadcast of the live program to Camden, Lancaster, and Newberry Counties. Eighty-three participants from across Mid-Carolina's 11-county region attended.

With the assistance of MUSC faculty member Dr. James Zoller, MHA, PhD, the four regional AHEC Centers are partnering to implement a statewide program evaluation that will include a follow-up survey to address outcome measures associated with practice/behavioral change as a result of the program.

Both Upstate AHEC's and Pee Dee AHEC's programs will take place starting at 5:45 pm. For more information on the upcoming programs, visit Pee Dee AHEC's website at www.peedeeahec.net and Upstate AHEC's website at www.upstateahec.org.

[← Back to top](#)